

**FINAL
DECISION DOCUMENT FOR THE
FORMER SMOKE AREA, CHOCOLOCCHO CORRIDOR, PARCEL 107(7)
FORT McCLELLAN, CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

ISSUED BY: THE U. S. ARMY

DECEMBER 2000

**U.S. ARMY ANNOUNCES
DECISION DOCUMENT**

This Decision Document presents the determination that no further remedial action will be necessary to protect human health and the environment at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7) at Fort McClellan (FTMC) in Calhoun County, Alabama. The location of the parcel is shown on Figure 1. In addition, this Decision Document provides the site background information used as the basis for the no further action decision.

This Decision Document is issued by the U.S. Army Garrison at FTMC with involvement by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Team (BCT). The BCT is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IV, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. The BCT is responsible for planning and implementing environmental investigations at FTMC.

Based on the results of the site investigation (SI) completed at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7), the U.S. Army will implement no further action at the site. This decision

was made by the U.S. Army with concurrence by the BCT.

This Decision Document summarizes site information presented in detail in background documents that are part of the administrative record for the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7). A list of background documents for Parcel 107(7) is presented on Page 2. A copy of the administrative record for Parcel 107(7) is available at the public repositories listed on Page 3.

**REGULATIONS GOVERNING
SITE**

FTMC is undergoing closure by the BRAC Commission under Public Laws 100-526 and 101-510. The 1990 Base Closure Act, Public Law 101-510 established the process by which U.S. Department of Defense installations would be closed or realigned. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program requires investigation and cleanup of federal properties prior to transfer to the public domain. In addition, the Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) (Public Law 102-426) requires federal agencies to identify real property on military installations scheduled for closure that can be transferred

to the public for redevelopment or reuse. Consequently, the U.S. Army is conducting environmental studies of the impact of suspected contaminants at parcels at FTMC. The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC follows the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process.

SITE BACKGROUND

FTMC is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains of northeastern Alabama near the cities of Anniston and Weaver in Calhoun County. FTMC is comprised of two main areas of government-owned properties: the Main Post and Pelham Range. Until May 1998, the FTMC installation also included the Choccolocco Corridor, a 4,488-acre tract of land that was leased from the State of Alabama. The Main Post, which comprises 18,929 acres, is bounded on the east by the Choccolocco Corridor, which previously connected the Main Post with the Talladega National Forest. Pelham Range, which comprises 22,245 acres, is located approximately 5 miles due west of the Main Post and adjoins the Anniston Army Depot on the southwest.

PRIMARY BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS FOR PARCEL 107(7)

Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 1998, *Final Environmental Baseline Survey, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, prepared for U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, January.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000a, *Final Site Investigation Report, Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, December.

IT Corporation (IT), 2000b, *Final Human Health and Ecological Screening Values and PAH Background Summary Report, Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, July.

IT Corporation (IT), 1998, *Final Site-Specific Field Sampling Plan Attachment for Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7), Fort McClellan, Calhoun County, Alabama*, October.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), 1998, *Final Background Metals Survey Report, Fort McClellan, Alabama*, July.

The Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7), is located along the southern boundary of the Choccolocco Corridor, on the east side of Morrison Hill (Figure 1). The parcel covers approximately 5 acres. Training activities at the site involved the use of smoke generators and fog oil. The dates of use at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, could not be determined exactly but the site was used periodically from 1961 until approximately 1972. The site is located on a gentle, east-facing slope of Morrison Hill and lies at an elevation of approximately 750 feet above mean sea level. A small, unnamed tributary to Choccolocco Creek is located just north of the site. A dirt road and an east-flowing surface drainage feature run through the southern portion of the parcel. The site and surrounding area are mostly undeveloped and heavily wooded.

SCOPE AND ROLE OF PARCEL

Information developed from the environmental baseline survey (Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc., 1998) was used to group areas at FTMC into standardized parcel categories using U.S. Department of Defense guidance. All parcels received a parcel designation for one of seven CERFA categories, or a non-Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act qualifier designation, as appropriate. The seven CERFA categories include CERFA Uncontaminated Parcels (Categories 1 and 2), CERFA Contaminated Parcels (Categories 3 through 7), and CERFA Qualified Parcels. The Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7) was categorized as a CERFA Category 7 parcel in the environmental baseline survey. CERFA Category 7 parcels are areas that are not evaluated or require further evaluation (Environmental Science

and Engineering, Inc., 1998). With the issuance of this Decision Document, Parcel 107(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response.

SITE INVESTIGATION

An SI was conducted at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7) to determine whether chemical constituents are present at the site at concentrations that would present an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment (IT Corporation, 2000a).

Four surface soil samples, two depositional soil samples, four subsurface soil samples, and three surface water and sediment samples were collected at the site. Surface and depositional soil samples were collected from the

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES
FOR FORT McCLELLAN**

Anniston Calhoun County Public Library

Reference Section

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Point of Contact: Ms. Sunny Addison

Tele: (256) 237-8501

Fax: (256) 238-0474

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Houston Cole Library

9th Floor

Jacksonville State University

700 Pelham Road

Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

Point of Contact: Ms. Rita Smith (256) 782-5249

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

upper 1 foot of soil; subsurface soil samples were collected at depths greater than 1 foot below ground surface. Surface water and sediment samples were collected from the tributary to Choccolocco Creek located north of the parcel. Samples were analyzed for target analyte list metals, target compound list volatile organic compounds (VOC), and target compound list semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC). In addition, sediment samples were analyzed for total organic carbon and grain size.

To evaluate whether detected constituents present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the analytical results were compared to human health site-specific screening

levels (SSSL) and ecological screening values (ESV) for FTMC (IT Corporation, 2000b). The SSSLs and ESVs were developed as part of human health and ecological risk evaluations associated with SIs being performed under the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at FTMC. Additionally, metal concentrations exceeding SSSLs and ESVs were compared to media-specific background screening values (Science Applications International Corporation [SAIC], 1998).

The potential threat to human receptors is expected to be low. Although the site is located within an undeveloped area of the Choccolocco Corridor owned by the State of Alabama, the soils data

were screened against residential human health SSSLs to evaluate the site for possible unrestricted future land use. With the exception of manganese in three surface soil samples, the metals concentrations that exceeded SSSLs were below the respective background concentration. However, the manganese concentrations were within the range of background values determined by SAIC (1998) and do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health. VOC and SVOC concentrations in site media were below SSSLs.

The potential impact to ecological receptors is also expected to be minimal. The concentrations of six metals (barium, beryllium, copper, manganese, mercury, and

selenium) exceeded ESVs and their respective background concentration in surface and depositional soils at Parcel 107(7). With the exception of beryllium (three sample locations) and copper (one sample location), these metals concentrations were within the range of background values determined by SAIC (1998).

The VOC trichlorofluoromethane was detected in two sediment samples at concentrations (0.0045 milligrams per kilogram [mg/kg] and 0.0046 mg/kg) marginally exceeding the ESV (0.00307 mg/kg).

SITE REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Remedial actions were not conducted at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(7).

DESCRIPTION OF NO FURTHER ACTION

Remedial alternatives were not developed for Parcel 107(7). No further action is selected because remedial action is unnecessary to protect human health or the environment at this site. The metals and organic compounds detected in site media do not pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Therefore, the site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste. Furthermore, Parcel 107(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or

remedial response. The U.S. Army will not take any further action to investigate, remediate, or monitor the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(3) (formerly Parcel 107[7]).

The following costs are associated with implementing the no-action alternative:

Capital Cost:	\$0
Annual Operation & Maintenance Costs:	\$0
Present Worth Cost:	\$0
Months to Implement:	None
Remedial Duration:	None.

DECLARATION

Further remedial action is unnecessary at the Former Smoke Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(3) (formerly Parcel 107[7]). The no further action remedy protects human health and the environment, complies with federal and state regulations that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate, and is a cost-effective application of public funds. This remedy will not leave in place hazardous substances at concentrations that require limiting the future use of the parcel, or that require land-use control restrictions to exposure. The site is released for unrestricted future land use with regard to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste. Parcel 107(7) is recategorized as a CERFA Category 3 parcel. Category 3 parcels are areas where release, disposal, and/or migration of hazardous substances has occurred but at concentrations that do not require a removal or remedial response. There will not be any further remedial costs associated with implementing no further action at the Former Smoke

Area, Choccolocco Corridor, Parcel 107(3) (formerly Parcel 107[7]).

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Any questions or comments concerning this Decision Document or other documents in the administrative record can be directed to:

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ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
ESV	ecological screening value
FTMC	Fort McClellan
IT	IT Corporation
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
SI	site investigation
SSSL	site-specific screening level
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
VOC	volatile organic compound

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